

PARENTS FLAG/EDMONTON

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1/92

SUMMER NOTES

There has been little activity since the last newsletter. Hope everyone has enjoyed the summer sun and forgotten about August's snow! There was a meeting in August at which ideas for programs for the coming year were discussed. At our first meeting in September, Steve and Frances (and possibly David) will report on their time at the PFLAG Conference in Seattle. Judging from the agenda for the Conference, they should have lots to tell us! We hope to see everyone back and feeling refreshed after the summer break. We also hope to welcome some new faces!

THE NEXT MEETING
WILL BE HELD
7:30 pm, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1992
AT

(parking in the rear)
(For information phone Lynne at [REDACTED])

CHATELAINE PUBLISHES GAY POSITIVE ARTICLES

The September issue of Chatelaine contains two articles relating to gays and lesbians that are of interest to our members. The first is in their Parents & Kids section and is titled When Your Teen is Gay - A doctor's answers to parents' questions. It is sensitively written, makes the reader aware that many teens struggle to deny their homosexuality, and gives parents suggestions on how to respond if told a child is gay/lesbian. The second article is about k.d. lang and brings out the fact that she is a lesbian. This is done in a matter of fact, non-judgmental manner. It is the type of article that could give a young gay a positive role model and hope for the future.

It is fairly likely that Chatelaine will get some negative reaction to these articles. Members of PFLAG are urged to write to the magazine to praise them for publishing this positive material. (If you are concerned about seeing your name in print, request that it not be published but don't send an "anonymous" letter). The address to write to is:

The Editor,
Chatelaine Magazine,
Maclean Hunter Building,
777 Bay Street,
Toronto, Ont., M5W 1A7

MICHAEL PHAIR RUNNING FOR ALDERMAN

MICHAEL PHAIR, a leader in the Gay Community and founder of GALA (Gay and Lesbian Awareness Society), is running for Alderman in Ward 4. Michael has a long record of community involvement in Edmonton. He was Edmonton's Citizen of the Year in 1986, recipient of a Children's Service Award from the Early Childhood Professional Assoc. of Alberta in 1991, won the Community Service Award from the AIDS Network of Edmonton in 1991, and received a Catholic Social Services Volunteer appreciation award in 1992. He also volunteers with the Edmonton Social Planning Council, Nexus Theatre, Multicultural Access Committee, Edmonton Community Foundation, and Chancery Lane Condominium Assoc. Michael holds a Master's Degree in education and has worked in the education field as a day care centre director, community college teacher, and education consultant with the provincial government.

MICHAEL PHAIR's Campaign Kick-off is scheduled for Labour Day. Anyone wanting to meet Michael, learn more about him, or become involved in or support the campaign can call Friends 4 Phair at
[REDACTED]

CONGRATULATIONS

---to the Calgary PFLAG Chapter for getting the PFLAG Public Service Announcement on several radio stations and TV.

---to the Vancouver PFLAG Chapter for having 12 people marching in the Gay Pride Parade. Also, Gertrude and Stan Stevens of that chapter need praise for appearing on CBC's Almanac radio show, a province wide call in program. One of the results of that show is a new PFLAG contact in Prince George.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP	\$15	_____
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP	\$25	_____
DONATION	\$	_____

Make Cheques Payable to P-FLAG/Edmonton and Mail to:
Cindy [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ Prov. _____ Code _____

DONALD M. ISAAC, PH.D.
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY
37 Fruit Street
Worcester, MA 01609
(508) 753-8677

Dear P-FLAG member:

I am a member of the Worcester, MA branch of P-FLAG, and I would appreciate your assistance in a project I am undertaking. **The study has been approved by National P-FLAG.** The project is concerned with the impact, on parents, of discovering that their children are homosexual.

I am also exploring the process of change that parents may go through, how much difficulty still remains, and what parents have learned about themselves as well as about their children. The findings may be published and/or presented at a conference, perhaps at a P-FLAG convention. I hope the results of the study will be of assistance to others who are trying to deal with their feelings and relationships. If you are married, please ask your spouse to answer as well. We would also welcome responses from other family members.

I realize that this questionnaire will take your time, thought and effort. Please be assured that your responses will be confidential and there will be no way of identifying anyone who responds. You may have resolved some of your feelings, you may still be struggling with some aspects of the problems experienced and may even still be in pain. Perhaps the questionnaire will help you explore some issues you still have.

If you belong to a P-FLAG chapter, please share copies of this letter and questionnaire with other chapter members and ask them to participate. We would appreciate it if this letter and questionnaire could be printed in a chapter newsletter so that it can have greater circulation. If you know parents who have homosexual children but who don't belong to P-FLAG, please send a copy of this letter and questionnaire to them. I hope they will join P-FLAG and find it as helpful as we have.

Please mail responses to me at the above address.

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Isaac, Ph.D.

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DONALD M. ISAAC, PH.D.
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Questionnaire for Parents of Gay and Lesbian Children

The following questionnaire is designed to help us understand the experiences people have had in learning about their children's homosexuality. I appreciate the time and thought you put into it. The results may be helpful to other parents, sibling and the children who are dealing with family and social responses to homosexuality.

Please answer all questions as fully as you can. If you use extra paper, please put the number of the question next to your response. Remember, all responses are confidential and, as you can see, cannot be identified unless you choose.

Sex: M F Age Education Occupation
Religion Marital Status
Spouse's Age Education Occupation
Religion Number of Children
Birth position of homosexual child (1st, 2nd, etc.)

Age of gay/lesbian child Sex Education Occupation
Are there any other homosexual relatives? Y N Relationship

1. How did you first learn that your child was homosexual?
2. How long ago was it?
3. Had you and/or your spouse suspected this? If so, what were your reasons?
4. Describe how you reacted to learning about this. How did you feel and what did you think?
5. What were the reactions of others who found out (spouse, other children, other family members, friends, etc.)?
6. How did their reactions affect you and/or your spouse?
7. Please describe your attitude towards homosexuals and homosexuality before you learned about your child? Where did these beliefs and feelings come from?
8. How has this affected you since then?
9. What are your current beliefs and feelings about your child? About homosexuality?
10. Have you told others about being the parent of a homosexual child? If so, please describe how you've done it, with whom and under what circumstances. What happened, how have others reacted, how do you feel about it, etc. If not, please indicate what problems you're experiencing and the reasons.
11. How has your child reacted to your reactions? What has happened to your relationship with your child and others in your family?
12. What experiences are you aware of which your child has faced with regard to employment, housing, social relations, family relations, etc.?
13. What support have you received in dealing with your child's homosexuality?

Please see next side

P-FLAG:

14. How did you find out about P-FLAG? _____
15. What has P-FLAG meant to you?
16. What activities, if any, have you taken on behalf of your children and others (e.g., attending meeting, participating in parades, writing letters, etc.)?
17. What more would you like to do?
18. Do you know others who have homosexual children but either don't know about P-FLAG or know but don't belong? _____ If yes, what can you say or have you said to them?
19. What suggestions can you give to parents who think their child may be homosexual but haven't learned directly from the child? What suggestions would you give to children who haven't told their parents?

Please return your questionnaire to me at the above address. Thank you for your assistance.

This study has been approved by National PFLAG.